



# PAR-TE-REC

## Adult Specialized Recreation Program

[Specialized Recreation | City of Eau Claire, Wisconsin \(eauclairewi.gov\)](http://eauclairewi.gov)

Par-te-Rec is a social program for adults with physical and cognitive challenges. This program has been a part of the Eau Claire Parks, Recreation, & Forestry Department for over 60 years.

Founded by Naomi Steinmetz and Dorothy Lighthizer, Par-te-Rec began meeting during the summer of 1962. A committee was formed from representatives of various service groups which included; Easter Seal Society, March of Dimes, Jaycees, Division for Youth and Children, Parks and Recreation, Chippewa Valley Council for the Mentally Retarded, Shelter for the Handicapped, Vocational Rehabilitation, President Coordinating Council, and City-County Health. In 1962, Jim Lahner submitted the name “Par-Te-Rec” to the board. Eau Claire Transportation was also set up that year and had 20-30 individuals riding the bus weekly. Attendance at Par-te-Rec averaged 40-50 participants per meeting and then doubled in 1963. Other special populations programs began to form that year as well, they included swimming and bowling. Then, in 1965, Parks and Recreation had a fire that destroyed all of the games and equipment purchased and used by Par-te-Rec. In September of 1967, Par-te-Rec was incorporated. Par-te-Rec was operated as an incorporation for many years. In the seventies, Par-te-Rec became a program that was supervised by staff of the Parks and Recreation Department.

Currently, Par-te-Rec is scheduled every Wednesday from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm throughout the school year and has recently expanded with an addition of an eight-week summer program. The fall/winter program meets at Hobbs Ice Center and the summer program meets outdoors in Boyd Park, one of the City’s Community Parks.

Participants are required to register for the program, but may attend as many times as they choose. The fee structure is set up with two payment plans. The first is a pre-registration that allows participants to pay for the entire season. This plan is discounted and saves the participants several dollars. The second plan is pay as you go, where four dollars are collected as the participant enters. The admission area is set up with two tables and two participant lists which include; “pre-paid” and “registered – daily admission \$4”. All participants are issued membership cards once they are registered. Participants usually show their card at the admission area. The pre-paid participant cards are a different color than the regular membership cards. This allows staff to distinguish between pre-paid and pay as you go. It also moves the admission lines more quickly and efficiently.

Par-te-Rec is a semi-structured program that encourages socialization, independence, and self-expression. Activities that are available each week include; music, dancing, arts and crafts, table games, card games, snack time, and conversation. One of the older participants has traditionally “spun the records”, plays the cd’s, and takes requests each week. Par-te-Rec has a different theme each week, some themes include; bingo, comedy night, Mexican fiesta, Hawaiian hula party, Halloween party, karaoke, and much more.

Par-te-Rec also feature two special events during the fall/winter season, the Holiday Party and Par-te-Rec Prom. The holiday party is scheduled in December. Participants enjoy a catered dinner, dancing, punch, and a visit from Santa. Santa distributes wrapped gifts and visits individually with participants. Par-te-Rec Prom is a semi-formal event that is scheduled in April. Participants come dressed in their very best clothes and are very well groomed. Many of the regular activities are available for the participants. A professional disc jockey is hired to play music and facilitate interactive dances. Toward the end of the event, a prom King and Queen are selected, crowned, and stroll through a grand march precession.

### ✪ **Purpose & Goals**

The purpose of Par-te-Rec is to provide a scheduled activity for individuals with physical and cognitive challenges and to encourage socialization, independence, and self-expression.

- Low cost events that will allow for maximum participation.
- Offering a variety of events to attain the adult interests at each event, many participatory activities.
- Promotion of positive leisure choices and participation.
- A strong emphasis is placed on a fun experience for each participant.
- Encourage individuality through self-expression.
- Teach responsibility by requiring participants to register and pay admission fees.

### ✪ **Population Served**

Par-te-Rec targets all adults in Eau Claire and the surrounding areas that have physical or cognitive challenges. Attendance Summary:

|                               | <u>1962</u> | <u>2019-20</u> |
|-------------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Average Weekly (fall/winter)  | 65 approx   | 52             |
| Average Weekly (summer)       | 40 approx   | 45             |
| Bus Riders                    | 15          | 41             |
| Total Registered Participants | n/a         | 76             |
| Total Attendance              | n/a         | 976            |

### ✪ **Budget**

Par-te-Rec is a City subsidized program that charges a minimal admission fee to recover some of the program cost.

#### **EXPENSE SUMMARY**

|                           |                  |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Transportation            | \$9030.00        |
| Staff                     | \$6102.21        |
| Supplies                  | \$4157.55        |
| Room/Hall Rental          | \$1500.00        |
| <u>Administrative Fee</u> | <u>\$6564.42</u> |
| <br>TOTAL                 | <br>\$27,354.18  |

#### **REVENUE SUMMARY**

|                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| Admissions       | \$6545.00      |
| <u>Donations</u> | <u>in kind</u> |
| <br>TOTAL        | <br>\$6545.00  |

## ✪ Personnel

Par-te-Rec is staffed by the Eau Claire Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department. The program operates with one Program Planner and four to five program leaders. General responsibilities follows:

- Program Planner – financial accountability, staff payroll, contracts with DJ/Caterer/etc..., enforces program policies, handles paperwork, coordinates volunteers, and works on-site
- Recreation Facilitator – assists Program Planner with weekly set-up, registration, admission, prepares/distributes snacks, interacts with participants, and plans weekly activities.

## ✪ Program Duration

Par-te-Rec is a weekly event that is scheduled on Wednesday evenings between 6:00 – 8:00 pm. The program meets September through April and June through August.

## ✪ Publicity

The enclosed information includes support materials that are used to promote Par-te-Rec. Items included are; Prime Times – Recreation Program Booklet Special Populations section, Par-te-Rec Schedule and Registration Form (mailed to all past and current participants).

## ✪ Support

The program also relies on many volunteers from various organizations and groups such as Immaculate Conception, St. Olaf Church Religious Educations students, and UW-Eau Claire Service Learning students. The volunteers play a vital role in assisting staff with interacting with participants.

*“As one person, I cannot change the world,  
but I can **change the world of one person**” –  
Paul Shane Spear*

Snack donations from Clearwater Kiwanis Club, Laureate Alpha Gamma, and North High School Key Club are extremely valued because it helps in keeping program expenses down.

*The most valuable things in life are not measured in monetary terms. The really important things are not houses, stocks, and bonds, automobiles, and real estate, **but friendships, trust, confidence, empathy, mercy, love, and faith.**  
– Bertrand Russell V. Delong*

Financial gifts are sought for support of our Holiday Celebration, Spring Prom, and transportation costs. These events, along with the provision of transportation for most of our participants are key components of Par-te-Rec’s success. The clients look forward to these parties as the highlight social events of their year. The camaraderie and social engagement the participants experience through Par-te-Rec each week provides quality relationships amongst our community and throughout.

*We make a living by what we get, but  
we make a life by **what we give** –  
Winston Churchill*

## ✪ Contact

Julie Booth, Program Supervisor for the Eau Claire Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department is available to share the experience of Par-te-rec with your community.

Email: [Julie.booth@eauclairewi.gov](mailto:Julie.booth@eauclairewi.gov)

Phone: 715-839-5032

915 Menomonie Street

Eau Claire, WI 54703